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Reserve

NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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No. 132

APRIL 17, 1953

Spring Outlook Favorable For N. C. Agriculture

Wheat Prospects Near Record - Peaches and Pastures Above Average - Farm Grain Stocks Low

As of April 1 the outlook for agriculture in North Carolina was generally favorable. Conditions on April 1 indicate a wheat crop of 8.5 million bushels - the second largest of record. The State's rye crop carried a condition of 92 percent the highest of record at this date. Prospects for the 1953 peach crop are good with an average condition of 87 reported for April 1 - the same as a year earlier and 10 points above average. Pastures have made rapid recovery from drought damage of last year and are now in 88 percent condition 4 points above the condition a year ago and the same amount above average.

Milk production on Tar Heel farms during March is estimated at 130 million pounds, an increase of 8 million pounds over March 1952 and 15 million pounds above average. Also, during March the State's laying flocks produced 151 million eggs, 7 million above March 1952 production.

Spring farming activities in Piedmont and mountain areas were slowed by wet soils, but delays were not serious. How-
(Continued on Page 4)

MARCH PLACEMENTS UP 6%

Chick placements with broiler growers in the central and western commercial broiler areas of North Carolina totalled 4,796,000 in March. This is the highest March placement of record, exceeding the 4,532,000 chicks placed during March last year by about 6 percent.

Hatcherymen serving the two areas placed 8,017,000 eggs in incubators during the month -- 4.6 percent more than the 7,664,000 eggs set during March 1952.

PEACH CROP GOOD

Prospects for the 1953 crop of peaches in the 10 Southern States are very good in all areas. The 80 percent condition reported on April 1 is 8 points above a year ago, 15 points above two years ago, and 11 points above April 1 average.

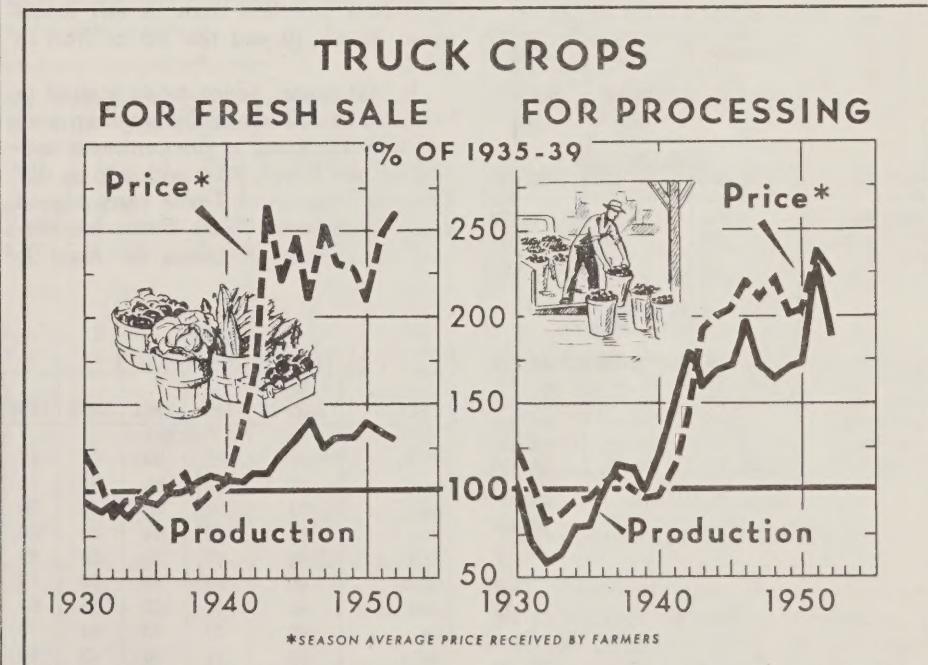
In the Sandhills area of North Carolina, full bloom occurred about March 15, a week earlier than last year. The South Carolina peach crop had a minimum of cold injury although some low temperatures were recorded during the last week of March in minor areas. Trees were in full bloom during the first week of March in Ridge and Sandhills areas in South Carolina and the second week in the Piedmont region. In Georgia, weather

(Continued on Page 2)

MILK PRODUCTION BEGINS SEASONAL UPSWING

Production of milk on North Carolina farms totaled 130 million pounds during March. This was an increase of 7 percent over March production a year ago, 13 percent over 1942-51 average for the month, 11 percent above production during February of this year. The increase in March marks the normal point of upswing in the seasonal pattern of production. The number of milk cows increased 17,000 over March, 1952 thus resulting in most of the production increase. However, production per cow increased 4 pounds over March a year ago to further contribute to the total production increase.

Weather conditions during March
(Continued on Page 2)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Farm Grain Stocks Down Sharply

Total stocks of the six major grains (including soybeans) on North Carolina farms were almost 31 percent smaller on April 1 than they were a year earlier. Current farm holdings of the six grains total 22,224,000 bushels compared with 31,994,000 bushels on farms April 1, 1952 and the preceding 10-year average April 1 stocks of 30,422,000 bushels.

Stocks for each of the 6 grains are below the 1952 level. Current farm stocks of corn at 18,519,000 bushels are 32 percent smaller than a year ago and the smallest April 1 supply since 1937. Oats stocks of 1,775,000 bushels are 19 percent less than a year ago but 8 percent above average for April 1. The 252,000 bushels of barley on farms is 50,000 bushels less than a year ago but 93,000 bushels above average.

The 998,000 bushels of wheat remaining on farms represent a decline of 8 percent from a year ago and 10 percent from the average. Farm rye stocks of 10,000 bushels compare with 21,000 bushels a year ago and the preceding 10-year average April 1 stocks of 31,000 bushels.

Soybean stocks on farms at 670,000 bushels are the smallest April 1 holdings since 1945. This year's stocks are 31 percent smaller than last year and 24 percent smaller than average.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS APRIL 1

Crop	Average	1952	1953
	1942-51	Stocks	Stocks
	000	000	000
North Carolina			
Corn, Bu.	28,604	27,433	18,519
Wheat, Bu.	1,104	1,082	998
Oats, Bu.	1,645	2,187	1,775
Barley, Bu.	159	302	252
Rye, Bu.	31	21	10
Soybeans, Bu.	879	969	670
United States			
Corn, Bu.	1,276,189	1,052,866	1,466,434
Wheat, Bu.	229,191	197,895	268,440
Oats, Bu.	483,841	519,236	458,956
Barley, Bu.	81,435	77,962	57,396
Rye, Bu.	4,432	3,441	2,441
Soybeans, Bu.	39,771	60,095	58,316

MILK PRODUCTION (Continued)

were favorable for milk production. Temperatures were normal or above and pastures afforded good grazing for this time of year. The April 1 condition of North Carolina pastures was 88 percent, compared with 87 percent last year.

Potato Acreage Up

Tar Heel growers of commercial early Irish potatoes indicate, as of April 1, that plantings will be 20,000 acres. This acreage is almost 18 percent more than the 17,000 acres harvested last year, but 34 percent below the 1942-51 average of 30,350 acres. Rainy weather during February delayed planting about 2 weeks but most of the acreage was planted by March 25. Condition of the crop generally is good, with the exception of those drowned plants located in the lowest spots. If weather is favorable, movement should begin the latter part of May.

Total acreage for the late spring group is estimated at 162,700 acres, 32 percent above the 1952 harvested acreage, but 3 percent below the 10-year average. Acreage is being increased in all states except Oklahoma where the 1952 acreage is being maintained.

PEACH CROP (Continued)

conditions have been very favorable. In the Fort Valley area the full bloom varied from March 9 to 15. Blooming dates for the northern districts were several days later. In Alabama, the winter was mild and weather this spring has been favorable. The bloom in Arkansas was heavy and prospects are quite promising. In the commercial area of North Louisiana peaches were in full bloom about March 10 and the set of fruit is good.

In Oklahoma, peach trees started to bloom in mid-March in the southern area and were blooming in the northeast section by late March. Most orchards on the Edwards Plateau of Texas carry a good set. Trees in the North Texas commercial area were in bloom on April 1.

PEACHES

CONDITION APRIL 1

State	Average	1950	1951	1952	1953
	1942-51				
N. C....	77	71	80	87	87
S. C....	72	64	86	82	75
Ga.....	71	57	75	74	85
Fla.....	65	45	54	69	85
Ala.....	63	41	38	78	82
Miss....	66	53	35	72	79
Ark....	66	71	29	61	87
La.....	69	77	43	68	79
Oklahoma	59	73	48	43	79
Tex....	64	58	52	39	65
10 States	69	62	65	72	80

Record Rye Crop Condition

A record 92 percent condition was reported for North Carolina rye crop as of April 1. This compares with 90 percent on April 1, 1951 and 87 percent for the 1942-51 average April 1 condition.

Meanwhile, the April 1 condition of the Nation's crop was only 82 percent, comparing with 87 percent a year ago and 86 percent for the 10-year average.

N. C. Wheat Prospects Good U. S. Crop Below Average

The condition of the winter wheat crop in North Carolina around April 1 pointed toward a crop of 8,540,000 bushels. Such a crop would be second in size only to 9,016,000-bushels crop harvested in 1951 -- would be nearly 3 percent larger than last year's crop of 8,316,000 bushels and a fourth larger than the 1942-51 average production of 6,860,000 bushels.

Nationally, the 1953 winter wheat crop is forecast at 714 million bushels, an improvement of 103 million bushels since December 1. A production this size would be two-thirds as large as the bumper 1952 crop of 1,053 million bushels, but 10 percent smaller than average. The current forecast is based upon an appraisal of April 1 crop condition as reported by individual growers, soil moisture reserves, and other factors affecting crop production.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, SALES AND CASH RECEIPTS FROM EGGS, 1948-52

Year	Eggs	Eggs	Price	Cash
	Produced	Sold	Per Doz.	Receipts
	Million	1/	Cents	Thousand
				Dollars
1952	1,298	997	47.0	39,049
1951	1,229	927	53.0	40,943
1950	1,266	944	40.0	31,467
1949	1,228	908	48.6	28,774
1948	1,119	805	50.3	33,743

1/ Rounded to nearest whole million

Cattle and calf slaughter this year seems likely to exceed 1952 by about 15 percent. This would slow, but not halt, the increase in cattle on farms. With pork output likely to be down about as much as beef is up, meat supplies won't be much different than in 1952.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

North Carolina cabbage growers indicate they planted 2,200 acres for late spring harvest -- up 16% from the 1952 harvested acreage. Movement is expected to be light the week of April 13, reaching volume by the last of April.

Indications of acreage for harvest in the late spring group show 10,060 acres for this spring -- only slightly below last spring's late acreage of 10,130 acres, but 13 percent below the 1949-51 average of 11,560.

Growth of the North Carolina lettuce crop was retarded by cold, wet weather during March, but in general the condition of the crop is good. Some Romaine was cut April 1 but shipments of Boston and Romaine are not expected to reach volume until April 10-15 with the peak about May 1. Earliest cutting of Iceberg is expected about April 20, reaching volume that week, and peak about May 10-15. In Georgia, harvest has begun but because of the present poor markets some of the early crop may be left in the fields. In South Carolina growth was retarded by heavy rains during the latter part of March. As a result, prospects in the State are not as promising as they were a month ago. Harvesting was expected to begin early in April.

The State's strawberry crop, as of April 1, is in good condition. An average yield of 100 crates is estimated for this year compared to 90 crates last year and the 1949-51 average of 73. Such a yield would set production for North

Carolina at 190,000 crates, less than 1 percent more than the 189,000 crates production in the 1952 season.

North Carolina's beet crop generally is in good condition and, with favorable weather, harvest should begin about May 10th, reaching peak about a week later. In South Carolina, shipments are expected to increase considerably by mid-April and should be relatively heavy the latter part of the month. The Virginia crop is reported a little ahead of schedule with some harvesting expected by May 10.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME, 1948-52

Year	Produced		Price Per Lb.	Gross Income ¹
	Number	Pounds		
Thousands				
1952	43,366	121,425	28.4	34,485
1951	32,606	91,297	27.9	25,472
1950	28,109	78,705	26.3	20,699
1949	23,040	64,512	26.9	17,354
1948	18,286	53,029	34.7	18,401

¹ Includes consumption in households of producers.

Consumer incomes continue near the record rates of recent months.

Only about half as much cotton went abroad the first half of this season as a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, CASH RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS, 1948-52

Items	Unit	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Raised ¹	Thousand Head	18,981	18,251	17,549	20,406	18,894
Lost ²	Thousand Head	2,877	2,603	2,355	2,190	2,257
Produced ³	Thousand Head	16,304	15,848	15,194	18,216	16,637
Change in Inventory ⁴	Thousand Head	738	7354	71	7227	7287
Consumed in Farm Household.....	Thousand Head	8,812	8,992	8,992	9,270	8,800
Sold.....	Thousand Head	7,454	6,302	6,201	8,719	7,550
Produced.....	Thousand Pounds	59,665	57,629	57,582	68,184	63,619
Consumed in Farm Household.....	Thousand Pounds	28,198	29,674	29,674	30,591	29,920
Sold.....	Thousand Pounds	31,307	28,468	27,904	38,620	32,485
Price per pound...	Cents	23.1	25.9	22.4	27.3	28.6
Cash Receipts....	Thousand Dollars	7,232	8,855	6,250	9,997	9,285
Value of Chickens Consumed.....	Thousand Dollars	6,514	7,686	6,847	8,351	8,557
Gross Income.....	Thousand Dollars	13,746	14,541	12,897	18,348	17,842

¹ Does not include young chickens lost or Commercial Broilers.

² Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.

³ Chickens sold, plus consumed in household of farm producers and plus or minus change in inventory.

⁴ Change in inventory numbers during the year.

CHICKEN PRODUCTION UP IN 1953

In 1952, North Carolina farmers produced 16,304,000 chickens (excluding commercial broilers). This was 4.2 percent more than the 15,648,000 produced during the preceding year and the largest number produced in the State since 1949.

Compared with the previous year sales of chickens rose sharply in 1952. The 7,454,000 chickens sold from North Carolina farms during the year represent an increase of 18.3 percent over the 6,302,000 sold in 1951.

Inventories of chickens on farms increased 38,000 during 1952 and totalled 12,786,000 on January 1, 1953.

Although more chickens were produced in 1952, the number consumed in the farm household at 8,812,000 was 2 percent less than the 8,992,000 birds consumed during 1951 and the 1952 poundage consumed was down 5%.

Cash receipts from sales of chickens in 1952 totalled \$7,232,000 -- up \$377,000 from the preceding year. The increase in cash receipts resulted from the sale of 4,839,000 additional pounds of chicken since the average price received by producers in 1952 at 23.1 cents per pound was 2.8 cents below the 1951 level.

Gross income from chickens (excluding commercial broilers and eggs) totalled \$13,746,000, in 1952 -- a decline of \$795,000 from the 1951 gross income.

Commercial broiler production in North Carolina reached an all time high in 1951. During the year, 43,366,000 broilers weighing 121,425,000 pounds were produced -- an increase of 33 percent over the preceding year. The average price received by producers was up one-half cent from the 1951 level to 28.4 cents per pound. Gross income from broilers is estimated at \$34,485,000, up \$9,013,000 from 1951.

Egg production in 1952 was also the highest of record for North Carolina. Farm flocks produced 1,298 million eggs during the year -- exceeding 1951 production by 5.6 percent. The estimated 997 million eggs sold in 1952 represented an increase of 50 million over sales during the preceding year. However, cash receipts from egg sales dropped \$1,894,000 in 1952 due to a decline of 6 cents per dozen in the average price received for eggs by flock owners. The average price received for eggs in 1952 was 47 cents per dozen, while in 1951 producers received an average price of 53 cents per dozen.

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MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

March was a mild, rather damp month in North Carolina, somewhat more of the lamb and less of the lion than usual. It was a little less windy than the average March, although a thunderstorm on the 25th produced gusts as high as 55 miles per hour at the Wilmington airport. There was more cloudiness and less sunshine than may usually be expected in March, and a greater-than-average number of rainy days in most sections. No day of the month was entirely cloudless over the whole State, and only three days had generally unbroken sunshine.

Rain fell on some part of North Carolina on at least 22 of the 31 days of March, while snow, sleet or freezing rain occurred in the Mountains or Piedmont on at least four days. No unusually large amounts of rain were reported, but all general areas of the State except the northeastern counties had monthly total amounts that were greater than long-term March averages for the same areas. Most of the rain fell in four separate periods: a four-day period at the beginning of the month yielded about a one-inch average; another inch fell on the 11th and 12th; upwards of an inch fell on the 15th; and a four to five day period beginning on the 21st brought amounts of from one to two inches.

Average temperatures for the month of March over North Carolina were nearly two degrees above long-term March averages. It was cold during the rainy period at the beginning of the month, then seasonable, with mild days and cool nights, for the following week. Then followed a twelve-day period during which temperatures were usually several degrees above, and never below, the normal. The warmest day was the

14th or 15th in most areas of the State, and did not exceed 80 degrees except in the southeastern counties. After the 25th, weather was on the cool side, but not severe. Few places outside the mountains dropped below 25 degrees during March.

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD

North Carolina farm flocks laid 151 million eggs in March -- a record high for the month and almost 5 percent more than the 144 million produced in March last year.

The average rate of lay was 17.1 eggs per layer. This is the second highest rate of record for the month and compares with the March 1952 rate of 16.7 eggs per layer.

The average number of layers in flocks was also the second largest of record for the month. The State's farm flocks averaged 8,827,000 layers in March -- 2.6 percent more than in March last year.

Wheat Prospects Near Record - Peaches and Pastures Above Average - Farm Grain Stocks Low (Continued).

ever, with most of the land being prepared by tractors these delays can be overcome rapidly with a normal amount of open weather from April 1. in eastern sections spring farm activities were on or ahead of schedule.

Tobacco plant beds are in good condition. Control programs have held plant bed disease and insect damage to a minimum, assuring an adequate supply of healthy plants. Corn and cotton planting is underway in southeastern counties with some activity started on transplanting the 1953 tobacco crop.

Stocks of all major grains on North Carolina farms April 1 were sharply lower than the previous year. Corn stocks were lower by 32 percent the smallest April 1 supply since 1937; oats stocks were down 19 percent; wheat 8 percent and barley 17 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of soybeans on farms were 31 percent smaller than on April 1, 1952.

NORTH CAROLINA INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MARCH, 1953

